

Agenda Item	Outcome
Welcome and Apologies	<p>Members and observers were welcomed.</p> <p>The Chair especially welcomed Mr George Davey, Deputy Director-General NSW DPI and, Mr Ben Markwell and Mr Leif Lemke who attended their first meeting.</p> <p>Attendance: Chairperson: Mr Patrick Appleton</p> <p>Management Advisory Committee Representatives: Mr Ben Markwell Mr Glenn Dawson Mr Geoff Blackburn Mr Peter Ragno Mr Jim Drinkwater Mr Edward Allan Mr Russell Massey Mr Malcolm Poole Mr Darren Reynolds</p> <p>Observers: Mr George Davey Mr Kristain Holz Mr Peter Turnell Mr Andrew Goulstone Mr Graeme Byrnes Mr Don Johnson Mrs Shirley Massey</p>

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	<p>Mr Doug Ferrell Mr Darryl Sullings Ms Carly Goddard Mr David Makin Mr Peter Brown Mr Warren Winter Dr Doug Rotherham Ms Carla Ganassin</p> <p>Apologies: Mr Hans Heilpern Meeting commenced: 10:10AM</p>
Agreement on agenda	Agenda agreed.
Confirmation of draft minutes	<p>Outcomes from previous meeting approved. DPI to replace the draft outcomes on the DPI website with the final outcomes.</p>
Correspondence sent and received	<p>Correspondence received and sent was noted. DPI advised industry of a vacant commercial fisheries representative position on the NSW Marine Park Advisory Council.</p>
Business arising from previous minutes	<p>List of actions noted and updated. The Committee expressed concern regarding the delay in the finalisation of DECC's Commercial Fishers & Aquaculture Vehicle Access Permit Policy.</p>
Updates	The committee noted the updates provided from DPI Management, Research, Conservation and Compliance.

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	<p>DPI advised the committee of an application to FRDC to look at abundance changes of pipis on NSW beaches.</p> <p>The Committee commended the Shellfish Quality Assurance Association on their completed FRDC project – Economic viability of pipi reseeded.</p> <p>DPI advised the Committee that the SIAC agenda and minutes are available on NSW DPI website.</p> <p>DPI provided Industry with an update on the Share Appeals Process and apologised for the delay in finalising the process.</p> <p>The Committee noted that DPI Aquatic Biosecurity is working with the fishing industry, other federal, state and territory agencies and the wider community to help prevent the invasion of marine pests in NSW. The Committee were provided with marine pest information cards.</p> <p>DPI noted Industry’s concern regarding the regular fish kill events in north coast estuaries.</p>
Structural Adjustment and future direction for the EG Fishery	<p>DPI committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of the fishery and presented the following package of reforms to Industry. DPI emphasised that any reforms adopted would be on the advice of industry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a suite of tools to provide for tradeable input and output controls 2. Provide for initial restructuring with minimum shareholdings and exit grants 3. Comprehensive review of regulatory requirements and streamlining DPI administrative systems 4. Review cost recovery 5. Comprehensive review of fishing closures 6. Move focus toward risk-based resource management 7. Initiate an industry development program 8. Enhanced industry voice to government <p>The Committee acknowledged DPI’s commitment to Industry and gave in principle support for the reform package.</p>

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	<p>Action – DPI to provide Industry with a lay summary of the structural adjustment presentation.</p> <p>Action – Industry to review the package for reform and provide comment to DPI as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action – DPI provide the Committee with expenditure from the Commercial Fishing Trust.</p>
Catch record reform project	<p>DPI provided an update of the progress of the Catch Record Reform Project. The Committee was advised that the new catch reporting system is due to commence in July 2009. DPI noted Industry concern regarding the potential difficulty with reporting catch and effort information from fishing operations involving 'crew'.</p> <p>Action – NSW DPI to provide the MAC with details about how the more detailed catch and effort information will be utilised.</p>
License splitting policy	<p>The Committee noted DPI's risk assessment with respect to the potential effort increase from dual operators that have surrendered external fishing authorities under the Federal Government's <i>Securing Our Fishing Future</i> business exit scheme. The Committee supported DPI's proposed action to potentially cancel shares and/or endorsements.</p>
Regulatory Reform	<p>The Committee noted DPI's proposed amendments to the Estuary General Share Management Plan including moving fishing closures currently notified under section 8 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> into the Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Minimum weight for longfinned eels (as an alternative to a minimum length) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported 2) Modifications to the registration requirements for nets <p>The Committee did not support removing the requirement to register the hand-hauled prawn net and push or scissor net (prawns).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Moving the hoop or lift net into the EGSMMP <p>The Committee supported authorising the hoop or lift net to be set or left in the water by commercial fishers in the period between sunset and sunrise.</p>

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	<p>4) Moving the hand – hauled prawn net into the EGSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>5) Moving the push or scissor net into the EGSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>6) Moving the dip or scoop net (prawns) into the EGSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>7) Moving the crab trap into the EGSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>8) Moving the eel trap into the EGSMP with modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>9) Moving provisions relating to the storage of eels into the EGSMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>10) Moving the netting priority into the EGSMP with modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>11) Changes to the prawn set pocket net ballot arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>12) Regulate the 'Missingham Bridge mullet shot'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported <p>13) Carriage of stowed commercial fishing gear through closed waters</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment supported
Species Recovery Planning Process	<p>The Committee noted the species recovery planning process and raised concerns regarding the exploitation status terminology 'growth overfished'. The Committee expressed concern regarding public perception of specific fisheries terminology such as 'growth overfished'.</p> <p>Action – DPI to provide the exploitation status (and an explanation of the terminology) of species taken in the EG fishery that are overfished to some extent and require assessment and/or development of a recovery program.</p>
Code of Practice	<p>The Committee noted the need for minor amendments to be made to the Estuary General Code of Practice to reflect changes in the legislative framework governing the fishery.</p> <p>Industry raised concern regarding some of the content of the EGCoP.</p> <p>Action - Industry to provide comment on any proposed amendments to the EGCoP as soon as possible.</p>
Prawn set pocket net priority determination	<p>The Committee supported DPI's proposal to repeal the majority of the prawn net (set pocket) ballot provisions from the General Regulation and instead provide for ballots to be conducted in a manner approved by the Director General. This will allow for greater flexibility of when and how ballots are done and reduce the administrative burden on Industry and DPI.</p>
Other business	<p>A number of the issues raised by the Committee in other business were determined to be directly linked to the package of reforms presented to Industry.</p> <p>DPI reminded the Committee that amendments made to the Estuary General Share Management Plan regarding new prawn gear specifications become enforceable as of 1 May 2009 unless otherwise advised to fishers.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the use of trap floats larger than the prescribed regulated minimum size is authorised.</p> <p>The Committee noted that a minimum size limit for pipis may be appropriate for sustainability and marketing reasons.</p> <p>Action: DPI to meet with Shellfish Biotoxin Plan Manager's to discuss a potential minimum size limit for pipis.</p>

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Chairperson summary and next meeting date	The Chairperson thanked all members and observers for their attendance and contributions to discussions during the meeting and advised that the date for the next meeting would be determined out of session.